

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWING FIGURES:

A new drawing sheet is enclosed in which an embodiment of the claimed method is depicted as Figure 32.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow. Claims 40 and 41 are pending. Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for allegedly not showing every feature specified in the claims. In response, Applicant submits herewith a new drawing sheet in which an embodiment of the claimed method is shown as FIG. 32. The new drawing is in agreement with the specification, for example, original claims 37, 40 and 41. Portions of the specification have been amended in a corresponding manner for consistency. No new matter has been added.

Based on the above, it is respectfully requested that the objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

The Official Action indicates that Claims 40 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because, it is alleged:

the specification recites either first punching the sheets, sheet-by-sheet, then stacking the sheets, or first stacking the sheets then punching the stack as a group. The specification does not disclose stacking the sheets, sheet-by-sheet, then punching the sheets, sheet-by-sheet.

Official Action dated May 31, 2005, para. 3

In response, Applicants have clarified the claim by separating the compound step of registering and cutting or notching into two separately recited operations. It is respectfully asserted that the claims as now written satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

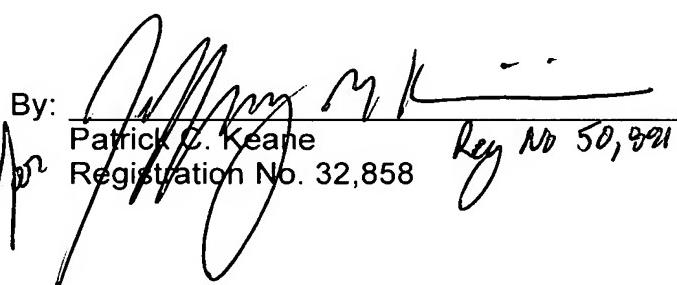
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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Hewlett Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

(703) 836-6620

By:


Patrick C. Keane
Registration No. 32,858

Key No 50,921